

Progress of goals in Computing Plan 2019

Goal	Progress in 2019	Comment
Mandatory		
	% complete	
1 Produce a Data Register and a mechanism for users to self populate that Register	50	Have produced a prototype Data Register and populating with data. No mechanism for users to populate yet.
2 Populate the Data Register with details of medium and high risk data	50	Populated data set with known data as a one off. Previous item needs completed to allow population of register on an ongoing basis
3 Continue to engage with University Network Strategic Review	75	Strategy and procurement complete. Low level design to complete and then rollout
4 Consider the School's network in the light of the University Network Strategic Review	25	Discussions ongoing (depends on low level design completion by ISG)
5 Complete the upgrade of administrative staff desktops to Windows 10	100	Complete
6 Migrate off Staffmail	25	Professional services staff, and recently appointed academic and research staff, complete. Remaining academic and research staff to be done - waiting on ISG
7 Complete the implementation of separate backup streams for MHR and non-MHR data to meet differing retention policies	75	Infrastructure to enable this now complete. Backup streams now need appropriately configured
High priority		
1 Improve processes for research data management - including production of Data Management Plans and recording, in the Data Register, details of all research data.	25	Several discussions with School's RDM team and ISG which have produced some actions
2 Consideration of how best to make use of Information Services' RDM offerings, producing use-case guidance to researchers, in partnership with IS Research Services	25	Several discussions with School's RDM team and ISG which have produced some actions
3 Produce a strategy for improving the efficiency of teaching admin support	0	Various meetings held with some resulting improvements. No strategy produced.
4 Produce a strategy for supporting the transition to use of VLE (and other tools)	100	Strategy produced.
5 Consider how to replace the School's ageing course work submission system	100	Consideration made. Agreed to drop current system. Agreed that no one solution fits all requirements - list of alternatives produced
6 Consider how to facilitate the use of Piazza (or similar system)	50	Trialling "Mattermost" as a solution
7 Scope requirements for managing School teaching content, including audit	0	
8 Consider how best to deliver the School's computing environment for taught students, considering the needs of both local and distance learning students	25	Project recently started
9 Produce a strategy for resourcing the School's compute and data intensive requirements	50	Various meetings and information gathered. Next stage is a brainstorm in early 2020
10 Procure and commission a GPU cluster for research postgraduate use	100	Complete
11 Migrate existing Institute web sites off Plone CMS service to School Drupal service (based on IS Drupal distribution)	75	Almost complete - just one remaining institute to complete migration.
12 Investigate whether the existing network file system (AFS) is still appropriate for the School's requirements and identify possible alternatives	25	Project in research phase
13 Research the possibility of re-basing the DICE desktop platform on an more frequently updated Linux distribution than Redhat	100	Ubuntu platform chosen. Work to produce DICE desktop based on Ubuntu about to start
14 Improve the working knowledge of Office365 tools amongst particularly the administrative and front line computing support staff	50	A number of administrative and computing staff have attended Sharepoint courses
15 Produce more sustainable and performant compute/GPU clusters - focusing on job management (slurm) and filesystems for 2019	75	The management of Slurm (scheduler) and Gluster (filesystem) has been automated to improve reliability, but remains to be fully deployed across all clusters. Continuing work on monitoring.
16 Investigate the feasibility of supporting Docker under DICE for end user use	0	
17 Upgrade the AV facilities in the Forum (other than G.07/G.07A), in collaboration with IS LTS	25	IF-G.03 and IF-2.33 complete.
18 Improve procurement and purchasing processes	75	Increased staff resource for peak periods. No additional work on this pending SEP outcomes
19 Procure and commission replacement UPS system for Forum server rooms	100	Complete
20 Review policies with respect to self-managed servers (due to space, security and energy concerns)	50	Under discussion at Compute and Data working group
21 Produce user security training materials for users of self-managed machines (supplementing IS material)	0	
22 Consider how to deal with growing server estate, given limited scope for increasing server room space	50	Under discussion at Compute and Data working group
23 Implement improved management of Commercial tenants, with respect to network provision and user support using Bayes model	50	ISG and Edinburgh Innovations are driving this. Processes now defined, documentation is being finalised
24 Continue to improve end-of-life account management. Investigate feasibility of automatically removing non home directory file space associated with expired user accounts.	100	Removal of old accounts wrt. home directory space completed.
25 Rollout use of LetsEncrypt certificate technology across all services	50	Infrastructure to enable this now complete. Rollout now in progress
26 Implement agreed steps to improve security of system administrator accounts	0	Little action. Priority to be raised for 2020
27 Investigate implications of, and produce a plan for, a wholesale move to HTTPS	100	Issues now identified and plan produced. Rollout to occur over 2020.
28 Develop and document policies and procedures for physical security	0	Little action. Priority to be raised for 2020
29 Identify a more sustainable procurement path for GPU servers	25	Stalled on availability of central Procurement effort
Decommissioning		
Legacy web sites	0	
Twiki	0	
Wordpress (blog.inf)	25	Users are now being directed to ISG wordpress for new blog sites.
coltex	0	

Projects signed off in 2019

Project number Project name

458	Update LCFG platform to SL7.5
444	Bayes building network
442	Forum network switch upgrade
429	Return to AT services unit
410	UEFI support in LCFG
393	Teaching software 2016/2017
358	SL7 server upgrade services unit
440	Teaching Software 2017/2018
272	Deploy Git/Gerrit as full services
334	DTI building design
226	Replace CVS with SVN on www.inf
389	Investigate options for a more sustainable virtual DICE desktop